



CURRENT NEWS

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Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

202 6th Ave. W. – P.O. Box 297
Flasher, N.D. 58535-0297
Phone: 701-597-3301
701-663-0297
Toll-free: 1-800-750-8212
Fax: 701-597-3915
Email: info@morgransou.com

Underground Line Locates
Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 or 811

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland “Judge” Barth
Vice Chair.....Casey Wells
Secretary-Treasurer.....Bonnie Tomac

Directors:

Mark Doll, Vern Frederick
Lance Froelich, Chad Harrison,
Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Chris Baumgartner
Donald A. Franklund

www.morgransou.com

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Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.

We also aspire to meet the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TOGETHERWE SAVE.COM

‘We have electricity! It’s a blessing!’

Co-op members share gratitude following Christmas blizzard and power restoration efforts

In some parts of the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area, the lights went out on Christmas day — and so did the linemen.

An epic snow and ice storm started with freezing drizzle, which froze to the electric distribution and transmission system. It quickly turned to heavy snow, and strong winds created blizzard conditions that made travel dangerous to impossible.

Linemen were dispatched to repair power outages caused by a combination of frost, and in some areas, ice on power lines, snow on cross-arms and blasts of wind. Poor visibility and clogged roads slowed the restoration process, so Mor-Gran-Sou worked with local road crews to gain access to cleared roads. The safety of the employees and membership is always a priority at your cooperative. Once able to access downed power lines and poles, the linemen reported the damage to management and proceeded with restoration where possible.

The weather conditions, clogged roads and the widespread locations of the power outages lengthened the restoration process. Mor-Gran-Sou thanks our member-owners for the patience, understanding and support shown — especially to your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative linemen and cooperative staff, who worked with integrity and accountability on Christmas day and during the holidays, so our members and their families could celebrate with comfort and cheer.

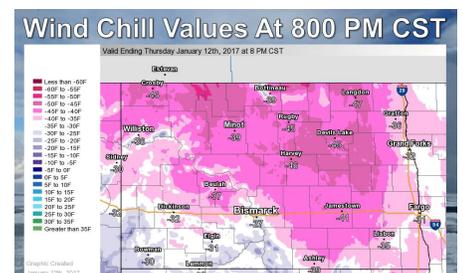
In Mor-Gran-Sou’s February local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, learn how members kept themselves informed on outage updates — and why many reached out to Mor-Gran-Sou to thank the linemen and staff for their efforts during and after the storm.



The “Big” Chill continued

Members – when looking at your electric bill, please keep in mind that this month’s bill will reflect those sub-zero temperatures we experienced the first half of January. Record-breaking, sub-zero temperatures were reported throughout the state.

This bill also reflects the rate increase that went into effect Jan. 1.



Jan. 12, National Weather Service-Bismarck

Serve your electric co-op as a director Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 21, 2017

It's time to consider serving as a board director for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. The initial commitment is a three-year term, with provisions in the bylaws limiting a director to serving six consecutive three-year terms, after which time the director is not eligible for another six consecutive three-year terms until one year has elapsed.

At the annual meeting on July 21, three board positions will be elected:

- The Grant County position presently held by Casey Wells;
- The Mandan Area position presently held by Robert Leingang; and
- The Sioux County position presently held by Lance Froelich.

Under the bylaws and due to the use of a mail-in ballot, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Instead, the bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a Nominating Committee of five to nine members who geographically represent the cooperative. These members will provide a list of qualified and willing candidates to the board for approval and inclusion on the ballot at the board of directors' meeting scheduled for March 29.

The Nominating Committee met for the first on Jan. 11. The members include Leslie Dirk, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Kathy Hoff, Leith; Jim Hopfauf, Flasher; Andrew Holle, Mandan; Rhonda Leingang, Solen; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; and Travis Wilkens, New Salem.

To learn the process and procedure to be nominated as a board member, read Mor-Gran-Sou's January local pages in the *North Dakota Living* magazine. Or, contact one of the Nominating Committee members or call Jackie Miller at Mor-Gran-Sou at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301 or email Jackie at jlmler@morgransou.com.

All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and submitted the required form by the March 8 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board.

Linemen attend safety conference, accept awards

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) hosted the 53rd annual REC Apprenticeship Training and Safety (AT&S) Conference Jan. 11-13 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by the NDAREC AT&S program, with cooperation from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship.

The conference featured training topics included incident investigation, working in severe weather, temporary protecting grounding and bonding, preparing for dog encounters and more.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative employees who attended this year's conference included General Foreman Doug Nagel, Leadmen Clint Begger and Jason Jahner; Journeymen Linemen Cody Graetz and Joe Michael; and Senior Engineering Technician Jason Helgeson.

At the conference awards banquet, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was one of six distribution cooperatives in North Dakota to be presented with a Safety Award. These cooperatives were recognized for having zero OSHA-recordable injuries for one year, between the dates of Dec. 1, 2015, to Nov. 30, 2016. This was the seventh year in a row Mor-Gran-Sou has received the award.

Also during the conference banquet, Mor-Gran-Sou Journeyman Lineman Brady Zachmann was recognized for having successfully met the requirements of the AT&S program. He completed his bookwork and hours of training in May 2016, when he reached journeyman status. Congratulations, Brady, on this achievement.



Mor-Gran-Sou Journeyman Lineman Brady Zachmann accepted his certificate from NDAREC safety services colleagues (from left) James Neether, Steve Homes and Jeff Tweten.

Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

Under the bylaws, any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting scheduled for **July 21**. The board of directors has now charged the Nominating Committee with reviewing and advising the board of any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions. Therefore, any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions should be submitted in writing no later than **March 16**, and/or they can be presented in-person at the following in-person meeting of the Nominating Committee on March 16 in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT

If you do wish to submit a bylaw amendment or resolution in writing, please forward it to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297, before March 16. Thank you.

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews patrol power lines

As time allows, the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative line crews set aside time to patrol line. Our linemen concentrate on certain areas of the Mor-Gran-Sou power system and look for possible line maintenance issues, safety hazards or other problems that may affect the distribution lines that bring power to your home or business.

Line crews are currently patrolling line throughout the system. Because power lines are on and off the beaten path, you may see employees in a Mor-Gran-Sou truck, an all-terrain vehicle or a snowmobile. When you see them out and about patrolling line, thank them! They are out there for your safety. ■



Also in the FEBRUARY issue of *North Dakota Living*:

- Deadlines approaching for student scholarships and safety poster contest
- Holiday closing Monday, Feb. 20, for Presidents Day
- Board meeting minutes & more